Message Text

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EO 11652: N/A TAGS: CASC DA

SUBJ: COPENHAGEN DISASTER PLAN

REF: STATE 57692 AND PREVIOUS

- 1. COPENHAGEN APPRECIATES THE THOUGHT THE DEPARTMENT HAS DEVOTED TO REVIEWING THE POST DISASTER PLAN. OUR COMMENTS, KEYED TO REFTEL. FOLLOW:
- 2. PERHAPS WE SHOULD HAVE MORE STRONGLY UNDERLINED THE DIFFERENCE BETWEEN HIJACKING AND DISASTER ACTIONS. AS INDICATED IN COPENHAGEN OM OF DECEMBER 21, 1977 TO M/CT, A SEPARATE SECTION IN THE DUTY OFFICER HANDBOOK IS DEVOTED TO HIJACKINGS. THE HIJACKING PARAGRAPH WAS ADDED TO THE DISASTER PLAN IN PART TO MAKE SURE THAT EVERY DUTY OFFICER WOULD BE AWARE OF IT, BUT ALSO TO PROVIDE ANOTHER SOURCE OF THE PLAN FOR QUICK REFERENCE, SHOULD THAT BE REQUIRED.
- 3. WHILE THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE PLAN WILL OBVIOUSLY HALT ROUTINE AMERICAN SERVICES UNIT ACTIVITIES, WE FEEL THAT LOSS IS MORE THAN OFFSET BY THE BENEFITS ACCRUING FROM HAVING THE MOST EXPERIENCED EMBASSY PERSONNEL INVOLVED AT THE BEGINNING OF THE DISASTER. THE AMERICAN SERVICES UNIT HAS THE POLICE, HOSPITAL, MORTUARY ETC CONTACTS NEEDED TO BEGIN MANAGING THE LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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DISASTER EFFECTIVELY. THE CONSUL HAS THE EXPERIENCE TO HANDLE FAST-MOVING EMERGENCY PROCESSING (E.G. CYPRUS EVACUATION IN 74, VIET-NAM REFUGEES IN 75).

A. DCM HAS BEEN DESIGNATED DISASTER COORDINATOR, WITH CHIEF OF CONSULAR SECTION HIS DEPUTY FOR FIELD OPERATIONS. IN REWRITING THE PLAN, CHIEF OF CONSULAR SECTION WILL REPLACE DISASTER COORDINATOR IN REFERENCES CONCERNING TRAVEL TO DISASTER SITE, ETC.

B. AS INDICATED IN SECTION II C OF THE PLAN, OTHER MISSION PERSONNEL WILL BE ADDED TO THE DISASTER TEAMS AS NECESSARY, ESPECIALLY IF OPERATIONS BECOME PROLONGED. WE SHOULD NOTE THAT THE DANISH CIVIL EMERGENCY AUTHORITIES ARE UNUSUALLY COMPEANT, AND ACTIVITIES WHICH WOULD HAVE TO BE UNDERTAKEN BY EMBASSY PERSONNEL AT MANY OTHER POSTS CAN BE ENTRUSTED TO THEM.

- 4. THIS IS BEING INCORPORATED INTO THE PLAN.
- 5. WE PROPOSE THE ADDITION OF THE FOLLOWING AS PENULTIMATE SENTENCE OF III C: "IN CASES OF AIRLINE DISASTERS, THE GOVERNMENT OF DENMARK AND THE CARRIER SHARE RESPONSIBILITY FOR PROTECTING THE PROPERTY OF DISASTER VICTIMS."
- 6. WE WILL SUBSTITUTE "WILL" FOR "MAY".
- 7. WE WOULD ENVISION SUPPLYING INFORMATION AS IT BECOMES AVAILABLE, AS WELL AS RESPONDING TO DEPARTMENT'S QUERIES. WE PROPOSE THE FOLLOWING IN LIEU OF FIRST NUMBERED PARAGRAPH OF SECTION VI: "1. ALL REPORTING WILL BE RELEASED BY THE DISASTER COORDINATOR, OR HIS DESIGNATED DEPUTY. THE DEPARTMENT AND INTERESTED FOREIGN SERVICE POSTS WILL BE NOTIFIED BY NIACT IMMEDIATE OR FLASH TELEGRAM OF ALL DETAILS OF THE DISASTER AS THEY BECOME KNOWN. TELEPHONE COMMUNICATIONS MAY PROVE MOST EXPEDITIOUS IN A FAST-BREAKING SITUATION. LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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CARE MUST BE EXERCISED THAT DISASTER REPORTING IS COORDINTED THROUGH THE DCM."

- 8. THIS IS RESOLVED BY 3. A.
- 9. DEPARTMENT'S EVALUATION OF THESE CHANGES WILL BE APPRECIATED SO THAT WE CAN REVISE THE POST DISASTER PLAN ACCORDINGLY.

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